

fall together. This is very important, because if ²⁶/₉ several ends fall together, there would be a week piece in the yarn. The remaining processes of spinning & weaving, are not peculiar to wool, & therefore, need not delay us.

The valley of the Aire & the Calder, with the district that lies between them, forms the great 'Clothing' District of the West-riding. Follow the Aire up from Leeds to beyond Keighley, follow up the Calder from Wakefield to beyond Halifax, & you find the valleys bristling with mill chimneys, either crowded together in towns or scattered in villages. Wherever a stream falls into either of these rivers, there is a nest of mills with many cottages for the work-people. Many small streams join the Calder, & in each of their valleys is a clothing town or village. Bradford & Gole, between the Aire & the Calder, is also very thickly sprinkled with mills.

It is only necessary to look at the rocky head of the stream to understand the location of the woollen manufactures in a land of rivers & water courses: much water is used in cleansing the wool, & in finishing & dyeing the cloth. Again, the clothing towns of the West-riding are planted on the South Yorkshire coal field, which affords not only coal to work the engines, but iron for the manufacture of engines & machines. Night-slept, are the great ports of Liverpool & Hull. ~~There~~ very complete system of canals & railways convey the goods between the clothing towns & these ports.

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309,126 ^{Pop.} Of this cluster of busy towns, Leeds, the fifth town in England
in population, is the most important. It is a rich, busy,
enterprising town with many mills & many warehouses,
the former being built, for the most part, round the Aire.
So great a labouring population demands many streets
of small houses; & the merchants & manufacturers
have their pleasant dwellings in the fine suburbs of
the town, especially about Woodhouse Moor, & Roundhay,
a very fine public park. Leeds has, of course, its broad
streets well-stocked shops & rows of imposing warehouses
built with an eye to effect. The handsome town hall, with
a great hall capable of holding 4,000 persons, is the centre
of the group of important public buildings. The Museum
of the Literary & Philosophical Society, & the Leeds Library
are especially interesting; & so, from another point
of view are the three Cloth Halls & the Industrial Museum
of the churches. St. Peter's parish church is perhaps the
most interesting, as connected with the labours of the late
J. H. B. Leeds has various industries besides
now connected with cloth: iron factories & foundries
as the Wellington & the Aire & Calder Foundries, glass works,
brass works, leather works: but next after that of woollens
linen is its most important manufacture, more linen
being made here than in any other town of the United
Kingdom, excepting Belfast. The great flax mills where
more than 2,000 persons are employed are at Holbeck
in the Aire, a suburb of Leeds, & belong to the Messrs. Marshall.
They are amongst the largest flax mills in Europe.
Barnsley in South Yorkshire, 'Black Barnsley', is also
a busy linen-making place, noted for its damasks, chertings.
Leeds is now a great town; in remote Saxon days there
was a little kingdom of Eborac or Leeds which took in the
valleys of the Aire, Calder, & Wharfe. The Conqueror reduced
the town to a waste; later we read of a 'Leeds Castle', in which
Richard II. was confined, but no trace of its remains. In
the Civil War. we find Leeds taken by the Royalists under

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The Marquis of Newcastle, created in the following year, (1643) by Sir Thomas Fairfax. The great industry of the town was probably carried on in the homesteads of the valley as far back as the reign of Edward III. The beginning of the present century saw a sudden increase in the prosperity & population of the town, which now has over 300,000 inhabitants. The remains of Thrapfield Abbey, the beautiful & more perfect ruins of a Cistercian house at Bradford, are within easy reach of Leeds.

Ranking next to Leeds as a clothing town, is Bradford, long known as the 'Metropolis of Woollen'; but as Bradford manufactures every sort of soft woollen material, perhaps it is better to say, that all woollen goods which are not felted or pulled after being woven are made here. The town lies in a valley amongst the rolling hills between the Calver and Aired. From any of the hillsides hemming in the town you see Bradford in the hollow, the houses clustering thickly, church steeples here & there, & small chimneys, something like two hundred of them, rising everywhere. The surrounding hills afford good building stone, & many an open quarry scars their sides, & circumstances which, while it gives a raw bleak look to the surrounding landscape, adds greatly to the appearance of the town. These handsome stone buildings, both public & private, give it a substantial well to do air. Amongst the public buildings, on the fine town hall, the 'New Market' & the Technical College: then, there are streets of tall, well built warehouses, & of well stored shops; while the pleasant villas of the merchants & manufacturers on the outskirts convey the impression that house architecture is more successful in Bradford, as in some of the Yorkshire towns, than in the suburbs of the metropolis. The houses of the work people too, are roomy & well built. The 'mill hands' of the West-riding are pleasant folk to know, having as comfortable homes as any work people in England; nor can their work in the mills be called laborious. Merinoes, alpacas, every sort of soft dress, stuff, twilled cloth for jackets & coats, braids for trimmings, &c. are made here. All goods - silks & satens, plushes,

plushes & cloths - are produced at the Manningsham Mill (W. Lister), a place for eye improving appearance.

Bradford has not a very interesting history. During the Civil War, it was on the side of the Parliament, & suffered an attack from the Earl of Newcastle. The two Fairfaxes, Lord Fairfax & his son, Sir Thomas - of an ancient Yorkshire family - being the Parliamentary leaders. Sir Thomas Fairfax has left a memoir containing interesting particulars with regard to the towns of Leeds & Bradford. Now, for example, "the Earl of Newcastle needed not to raise batteries (about Bradford), for the hills commanded all the town: now, amongst the prisoners, was "my wife, the officer behind whom the walls being taken: now, "my daughter, not being above nine years old, being carried before her maid, endured all this retreat on horseback." - (20 hours, to Tetbury, in Hull). &c. &c.

Adjoining Bradford are the Low Moor Ironworks, celebrated for the strength & toughness of the iron goods produced there - iron plates, bars, rails for railway lines &c. - the best in the world. The Low Moor brand is known all over the world. These great iron works, which employ some 4,000 men, rest upon the north-west corner of the coalfield, where there is much ironstone.

The interesting little townships of Ballin lies within two miles of Bradford. Every one knows its history; how, by what appeared a happy chance, a young Bradford manufacturer lighted upon certain "queer looking stuff" of which he made a new dress material, a shiny, silky, cool stuff, most pleasant for summer wear. The "queer stuff" was the soft fine silky wool - brown, black, or white - of the Alpaca, a beautiful creature of the Andes. W. Salt (later Sir Lewis Salt), grew rich by his discovery, & built on a lovely spot in the Aire valley, a palace-like factory, & a most perfect & compact little town for his work people, with admirable institutions & regulations, designed to make the mill workers healthy, happy, prosperous & independent. Many kinds of stuff besides alpaca are made in the great factory. Every kind of wood used in the woollen manufacture is ^{employed} ~~collected~~ here.

Kalijae.

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73633 We have now passed to notice the dozens of smaller towns & clothing villages which gather round Leeds & Bradford, the two great centres. Beyond one long bare field after another we come upon a town in a valley shaped like a basin, shut in by high bare hills. This is Kalijae, the third in importance of the West-riding clothing towns. (Population.) The hill-slopes & the valleys bristle with chimneys, & there are cotton, as well as worsted & woollen factories scattered throughout this large parish which extends as far as Lofthouse. The manufactures of the town are various & interesting - materials for curtains, table-covers, dresses, &c.; the Dressers. Crossley's the largest mill in the town, is a great carpet factory, employing over 3,000 hands. Before the introduction of machinery, Kalijae was the centre of the Yorkshire woollen works, which preeminence it probably owed to Edward III., who brought Flemish weavers here to instruct his subjects in the art of weaving. Blankets cloth out of the town, much prized English wool. And "Kappie," says Fuller, "the yeoman's home into which one of these Dutchmen did enter, bringing industry & wealth along with them." Kalijae is rather a handsome town, built of brown freestone. It has a fine 15th century parish church, & a beautiful new church, "All Souls," built by Sir Gilbert Scott.

Kuddersfield, &c.

73625 Kuddersfield is another exceedingly well-to-do clothing town on the great coal-field. Like Bradford & Kalijae it is built of stone & has wide streets & good buildings & various admirable institutions. The town alone has more than 100 mills, & the pretty valleys which open on all sides of it hold many clothing villages. Out of Kuddersfield, westward, you get into the moor country which forms the borderland between Yorkshire & Lancashire. Here are many edges, Scout Edge, Longwood Edge, Stan Edge, Moss Edge - edges indeed, each being a sort of step leading to the black moor above. Bleakstone Edge is the highest & the most of these long bare hills. The valleys are often lovely, & perhaps the

placed troops in ambush, on either side of Wakefield
Green, under the command of Lord Clifford & the
Earl of Wiltshire; & appearing before the castle with the
mainbody of her army, with taunts & insults, provoked
the Duke to battle. So he left the castle, & descended
with his small army upon the Green. "But," says
Hall, "when he was in the plain ground between his
castle & the town of Wakefield, he was environed on
every side like a fish in a net - - so that he,
manfully fighting, was within halpenny's
claim & dead, his whole army discomfited."

Everyone knows the part played by Clifford in
this battle, who, "for slaughtering men at Wakefield
was called the butcher." - How he struck off the
head of the dead York & smothered it with a paper crown,
which crowned head the Queen had set upon Micklethorpe
Beck, "so York might overlook the town of York".

Another tale of Clifford's barbarity may well be
doubted; - how he killed in cold blood the young
Earl of Rutland, the second son of Richard,
"a fair gentleman & a maiden-like person;"
but as Rutland was then a youth of seventeen
he is more likely to have been in the thick of
the fight than to have been 'privately & secretly'
led off the field by his schoolmaster.

Within twenty miles from Wakefield, to the north-west
is the village of Towton; & near it is a meadow, where
the grass is rich & rank, & there is a thicket of wild
roses, red & white, growing in loving clusters. This
meadow was the scene of the most bloody battle
ever fought in English ground. Again, an army
of the North, 60,000 strong, had gathered under the
banner of the Red Rose, led by the earls of Northumberland
& Westmoreland - Henry & Margaret - remaining in
safety at York. The Yorkists, ^{forces} under Edward IV. (now
only crowned at Westminster & Warwick, the King-maker,
were almost as numerous.

At four o'clock on the Saturday afternoon - the 29th of
March, 1461, the eve of Palm Sunday - it is ^{believed} that
the two armies met, & fought blindly through the night

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night, won into the quiet of Palm Sunday, the snow
falling thick all the time, claying a decent sheet over
the slain. No quarters, no prisoners, was the
order on both sides. At first they fought with arrows,
but the arrows missed in the blinding snow, so
the men threw aside their bows & drew their swords,
& a terrible hand to hand struggle began. At last
the Lancastrians gave way, retreating in order until
they reached the little river Cock which winds round
the 'Bloody Meadow', & was at the time swollen
by heavy rains. They descended to the river by a very
steep road; the men from behind fell headlong upon
those in front, & so many perished in the water that
the rest crossed on the dead bodies of their comrades.

Memoirs of Pontefract.

Rp. "O Pontefract, Pontefract! O thou bloody prison
Fatal to minions to noble peers!" Rich. III.

1798

Still in the Air valley, in Pontefract, a place of extraordinary
historical interest. It is a clean, pleasant country
town with an important market for corn & cattle; -
in the neighbourhood, a rather unusual crop is
raised, the pretty liquorice plant from whose
roots the well known 'Pontefract cakes' are made.
- It is to its castle that Pontefract owes its ^{historic} ~~name~~
name, ~~as it is that~~ for 600 years, ~~was the~~ ^{historic} ~~plunge~~
to the Union of South Yorkshire. When the Congress captured
Yorkshire he granted the lands of this district to
one Robert de Lacy, who, finding a high rock which
commanded the Air, raised upon it a renowned
stronghold - ~~a castle~~ ^{castle} surrounded by a
high wall with seven towers; ~~with~~ ^{partly, protected by} a deep moat.
Pontefract first becomes the centre of important historical
events in connection with Thomas of Lancaster, the
Cord of five earldoms, the grandson of a King, (Henry III.),
who dwelt at his castle of Pontefract with princely state.
He was the people's friend, & throughout England men
looked to him for deliverance from the oppressive taxation
which Edward's devotion to gawwider's idle pleasures
led him to impose upon the nation. It was under
Lancaster that the outraged barons rose to avenge, ~~with~~

only the injuries, but the insults they had received at the hands of their jailer. They followed the jailer to Scarborough, where he had taken refuge, took the castle, secured their prisoners, & carried him to Blacklow Hill, near Wainwright, where he was beheaded by order of Lancaster. His favorite arose, - this time, two de la Pencers, father & son, who had been, in the first place, dependents of Lancaster. Again the barons rose under their former leader, but this time to be defeated. A battle was fought at Boroughbridge on the Ouse; Lancaster was taken, & was carried down the Ouse to York, & thence, to his own castle of Pontefract which the king had seized. There he was tried as a traitor before Edward II., & condemned to death. The high ground above the castle is known to this day as St. Thomas's Hill. Thither he was led on a grey poney, the crowd pelting him with mud. "King of heaven!" he cried, "grant me mercy, for my earthly king hath forsaken me!" He was beheaded at the top of the hill, 1322. But the king did not lose his adversary. Henceforth, Lancaster figured in the popular imagination as a saint & martyr who had suffered for the public good. Miracles, it was said, were wrought at his tomb; offerings were brought to his shrine; & whether or no he was duly canonized by the Pope, it is as 'St. Thomas' he is yet remembered within at Pontefract. Still within the 14th century, (1392), this castle was the scene of a tragedy. It was the last prison of Richard II. after he decreed that he should be kept for life in some lonely castle, "unfrequented by any concourse of people." Three of his Yorkshire castles had been already tried, - Leeds, Richmond, & Knareborough. He had not been long at Pontefract when news of his death was made public. How he died is not certainly known; we all know Shakespeare's version, that he was murdered, struggling manfully, & overpowered by numbers; another version is that he died of starvation; & a third, that he did indeed die of starvation, but of his own will, unable to support the costs of his condition. The history of Pontefract is the history of England, with so many leading events in this northern stronghold associated; we will only notice those which belong peculiarly

to the history of Yorkshire.

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In no other county as there so many picturesque ruins of roofless abbeys as in Yorkshire, moreover did the order for the dissolution of the lesser & the greater ⁽¹⁵³⁶⁻⁾ houses, cause such consternation. There were over 80 monasteries great & small in the county. The effect of the dissolution was not only to turn the monks adrift, but to throw their labourers, an enormous number, out of work; & to deprive the poor of those means of aid which modern institutions - the hospital, the workhouse, & what not, - supplied, but for all of which the peasant of pre-Reformation days looked to the neighbouring monastery. Some other causes of discontent were at work; & the country was in a ferment; clashing men cramped from village to village, threatening murmurs arose on all hands. Men began to arm; they were ripe for anything; but, meantime, they wanted a leader.

It happened that Robert Aske, the second son of a Yorkshire squire of that name, having occasion to pass through Lincolnshire - already in insurrection - was seized by the rebels then compelled to take their pledge of fellowship. He returned to Yorkshire, still uncertain as to his own views ^{with regard} to his movement; but then, to his surprise, he found all men astir, & all waiting for him. A letter had been passed through the country in his name, calling upon the people to defend the Church. He accepted the role of leader, & the rebels assembled promptly in great forces on the common of Market Weighton. Nobles & peasants alike flocked in upon him, & Aske speedily found himself at the head of an army. York, Pontefract, Hull, fell into the hands of the rebels. Then came news that the king's troops under the Earl of Shrewsbury, had reached Doncaster, where they were stopped by the casting of the Don. Meanwhile the leaders of the northern army sat in council at Pontefract. And, amidst, Shrewsbury sent the Lancashire Herald with a proclamation from the king, which he was not permitted to read; but being carried into the presence of Aske, he was ~~constantly~~ impressed with his "port & countenance" that he fell on his knees

horns, & ask speedily for aid himself at the
head of an army. The rebels marched upon York,
which surrendered at once. Then they attempted
Rougemont Castle, the governor of which, being
secretly friendly, was ready enough to surrender.
Kil, too, fell into their hands. Then followed
a great council of the nobles held at Rougemont,
where the noble families of the North gathered in force.
For the king's troops, under the Earl of Shrewsbury
had reached Doncaster, where they were stopped
by the swelling of the Don which "suddenly rose
up such a height, depthness, & breadth, that the
like no man that did there inhabit could tell
that ever they saw it before."
Meanwhile, the leaders of the northern army
sat in council at Rougemont. And, that this
Shrewsbury and the Lancastrian Herald with
a proclamation from the king, which he was
not allowed to fix upon the Breckelcross. He
was brought into a chamber of the castle, &
said to Robert Ask, "keeping his port & countenance
as though he had been a great prince."
"And I fell down on my knees before him."
says the Herald, "showing him how I was a messenger
charged by the king's council to read the proclamation."
Ask refused to let him read it, & bade him tell
his master, that he & his forty thousand followers
proposed "to go to London of pilgrimage to the king's
highness, & there to have all the evil blood of his
council put from him, & all the noble blood
let up again," so that the ancient Church, & the
their lands & wealth given back to the monks,
& the common people, "used as they should be."
Then, from Rougemont, the insurgent marched in
three divisions to Doncaster, under a banner
Cheer